AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, lines 27-36 as follows:

The term "protease" is defined herein as an enzyme that hydrolyses peptide bonds. This definition of protease also applies to the protease-part of the terms "parent protease" and "protease variant," as used herein. The term "protease" includes any enzyme belonging to the EC 3.4 enzyme group (including each of the thirteen subclasses thereof). The EC number refers to Enzyme Nomenclature 1992 from NC-IUBMB, Academic Press, San Diego, California, including supplements 1-5 published in Eur. J. Bio-chem. 1994, 223, 1-5; Eur. J. Biochem. 1995, 232, 1-6; Eur. J. Biochem. 1996, 237, 1-5; Eur. J. Biochem. 1997, 250, 1-6; and Eur. J. Biochem. 1999, 264, 610-650; respectively. The nomenclature is regularly supplemented and updated; see e.g. the World Wide Web (WWW) at ~~http://www.~~chem.qmw.ac.uk/iubmb/enzyme/index.html.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, lines 8-13 as follows:

In particular embodiments, the parent proteases and/or the protease variants of the invention and for use according to the invention are selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Proteases belonging to the EC 3.4.-.- enzyme group;

(b) Serine proteases belonging to the S group of the above Handbook;

(c1) Serine proteases of peptidase family S2A; and

(c2) Serine proteases of peptidase family S1E as described in Biochem.J. 290:205-218 (1993) and in MEROPS protease database, release 6.20, March 24, 2003, (~~www.~~merops.ac.uk). The database is described in Rawlings, N.D., O'Brien, E. A. & Barrett, A.J. (2002) MEROPS: the protease database. Nucleic Acids Res. 30, 343-346.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 6-11 as follows:

Questions relating to taxonomy may be solved by consulting a taxonomy data base, such as the NCBI Taxonomy Browser which is available at the following internet site: ~~http://www.~~ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/taxonomyhome.html/, and/or by consulting Taxonomy handbooks. For the present purposes, the taxonomy is preferably according to the chapter: The road map to the Manual by G.M. Garrity & J. G. Holt in Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology, 2001, second edition, volume 1, David R. Bone, Richard W. Castenholz.

Please amend the paragraph on page 25, lines 17-23 as follows:

Endoglucanase activity can be determined using any endoglucanase assay known in the art. For example, various cellulose- or beta-glucan-containing substrates can be applied. An endoglucanase assay may use AZCL-Barley beta-Glucan, or preferably (1) AZCL-HE-Cellulose, or (2) Azo-CM-cellulose as a substrate. In both cases, the degradation of the substrate is followed spectrophotometrically at OD_{595} (see the Megazyme method for AZCL-polysaccharides for the assay of endo-hydrolases at ~~http://www.~~megazyme.com/booklets/AZCLPOL.pdf.